

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-25

NIC-01 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 INRE-00 /136 W  
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P R 022048 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4131

INFO CINCSO

DIA WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS/ PINT, UY

SUBJECT: CONGRESS APPROVES FURTHER SUSPENSION OF INDIVIDUAL  
GUARANTEES

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MONTEVIDEO 950

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THIRTY HOURS OF BITTER DEBATE, URUGUAYAN  
LEGISLATURE APPROVED IN EARLY MORNING HOURS, SATURDAY ( MARCH  
31) FURTHER SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL GUARANTEES UNTIL  
MAY 31. FINAL VOTE WAS AS EXPECTED VERY CLOSE - 65 IN FAVOR,  
63 AGAINST. DESPITE HARSH CRITICISM OF MILITARY, ARMED FORCES'  
LEADERS APPARENTLY ACCEPTING CONGRESSIONAL OUTCOME AS VICTORY.  
END SUMMARY.

2. PREDICTABLY, HARSHTEST CRITICISM DURING CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE  
CAME FROM DISSIDENT COLORADO SENATOR AMILCAR VASCONCELLOS AND  
OPPOSITION BLANCO WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE COALITION WHO ROUNDLY  
CONDEMNED RECENT ARMED FORCES DECLARATION ( MONTEVIDEO 904).  
VASCONCELLOS DELIVERED EXTENSIVE CATALOG OF WHAT HE TERMED MILI-  
TARY' S ABUSES OF ITS POWERS: " SLANDER", " DISOBEDIENCE", " MUTINE"  
AND " REBELLION". IN THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE DAY, VASCONCELLOS  
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NOTED THAT THE MILITARY, HAVING ENTERED INTO POLITICS, WOULD NOW HAVE TO ACCEPT BEING " SPLATTERED" WITH THE MUD THROWN IN THIS ACTIVITY. VASCONCELLOS STOPPED SHORT, HOWEVER, OF SINGLING OUT INDIVIDUAL MILITARY OFFICERS FOR WRONGDOING. OUT. THUS, WHEN US AIR IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE, SOME FANK UNITS BELIEVE THAT THEY CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL IN A COMZJT SITUATION. TWO INCIDENTS ARE RECORDED IN WHICH FANK FORCES RETREATED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE US FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER LEFT THE AREA TO BE REFUELED.

3. LOOKING AT THE PRESENT AND AHEAD, WE BELIEVE THAT THYPOLITINWL CRISIS IN PHNOM PENH MAY WELL BE HAVING WDMAJOR IMPACT ON FANK MORALE. AS DEFENSE MINISTER MAJGEN THAPPANA NGINN TOLD US LAST NIGHT, MANY FANK SOLDIERS DO NOT NOW REALLY KNOW FOR WHAT OR FOR WHOM THEY ARE FIGHTING. WE ARE ASKING OURSELVES WHETHER WE ARE NOT OBSERVING A DETERIORATION OF FANK EFFECTIVENESS WHICH COULD GATHER DANGEROUS MOMENTUM. SUCH A BREAKING UP IS POSSIBLE IF THE SITUATION ON THE MEKONG IS NOT RESTORED AND IF THE LONG STRING OF RECENT REVERSES IS NOT ARRESTED.

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE FIGHTING CAPABILITY OF THE SECOND AND SEVENTH DIVISIONS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. AS ALWAYS, THE SECOND DIVISION IS SERIOUSLY UNDER STRENGTH, AND THIS IS A MAJOR CONSTRAINT ON ITS EFFECTIVENESS. THE AMBUSH OF THE SEVENTH DIVISION BELOW CHAMBAK NEED NOT DEPRIVE THE PDOS ELITE UNIT OF ITS COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS IN THE FUTURE, AND DAO OFFICERS WHO HAD THE CLOSEST CONTACT WITH IT ARE RELATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

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OPTIMISTIC. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL TAKE A MAJOR EFFORT OF LEADERSHIP TO GET THE SEVENTH BACK INTO GOOD FIGHTING TRIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND ALTHOUGH WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE, WE SHOULD NOT SUPPOSE THAT EITHER THE SEVENTH, OR ABOVE ALL THE SECOND, WHOSE COMMANDER BRIGGEN DIEN DEL HAS SHOWN LITTLE APPETITE FOR THE STRUGGLE FOR SOME TIME, ARE IMMUNE TO THE GENERAL DEMORALIZING FACTORS LISTED ABOVE. SWANK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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